

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
CITY OF WILLMAR, MINNESOTA
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2012**

MINUTES

The Community Development Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Thursday, September 13, 2012, in Conference Room No.1 at the City Office Building. Chair Dokken called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

Present:

Jim Dokken	Chair
Steve Ahmann	Council Member
Ron Christianson	Council Member
Bruce DeBlieck	Council Member
Bruce Peterson	Director of Planning and Development Services

Others present: Kim Fedder - Regency Mobile Home Park Manager and Jose Montoya - Park Maintenance

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

There were no public comments offered at this meeting.

2. MOBILE HOME PARKS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Kim Fedder, the manager at Regency Mobile Home Parks in Willmar, along with Jose Montoya, appeared before the Committee to discuss the maintenance and operations of the mobile home parks. It is estimated that there are 60 homes remaining in the west park and 45 homes remaining in the east park after the most recent demolitions. There have been 40 evictions over the past 2 years and more are coming. The management is working to remove abandoned mobile homes. They have done 20 to 30 over the past 2 years. It is estimated that there are 25 to 35 children in the east park and even more in the west park. The mobile home park representatives stated the need for a playground near the east park. It was noted that on a scale of 1-10, most remaining mobile homes rate a 3 or 4. The residents are poor and cannot afford the maintenance. All homes are owner occupied. Management plans to add newer home as the bad tenants are removed. Both parks are currently for sale.

It was a consensus of the Committee that the mobile homes are a necessary part of the housing spectrum and that they provide an affordable housing alternative. Staff stated that no major inspection efforts were planned for individual homes in the near future. It was suggested by the Committee that the management contact Heartland Community Action Agency to address housing maintenance and energy issues. The representatives of the mobile home parks were thanked for their efforts and urged to continue moving the parks in the right direction.

3. NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Chair Dokken said there has not been much use of the City website by citizens to register complaints or raise questions. It was requested that Mark Boeschen attend the September 27th

Community Development Meeting to give a website demonstration on the Citizen Support Center.

4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES UPDATED (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Staff presented updates on Commercial/Industrial projects, as well as departmental activities. The departmental activities include work on the airport land release, airport redevelopment, industrial park infrastructure, and downtown planning.

5. MISCELLANY (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The Committee raised several issues under miscellany; those included the status of the Erickson furniture building, schedule for a downtown parking study and other Design Center activities, Rice Care Center project, the status of Lincoln School, and the future use of the Garfield School site.

6. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce D. Peterson, AICP
Director of Planning and Development Services